

## **Good Cop, Good Thief**

a comedy sketch idea by Jonathan D Steinhoff, 5.14.13©

[A make-believe TV sitcom that could never be, about two couples that do everything as a group. HARRY, the man in one couple, is the police partner of DORIS, the woman in the other couple. As the two couples sit together in a booth in a restaurant, certain things are made apparent by their conversation.

HARRY and DORIS, no matter how hard they try, cannot get a straight answer from their spouses, JANE and ROBERT, on what they do for a living or what they do with their time. Unfailingly, JANE and ROBERT give funny, clever joke answers (which triggers studio audience laughter every time) whenever prodded on this by HARRY or DORIS.

The other thing that is immediately made apparent by their conversation is that, as HARRY and DORIS talk shop in front of their spouses, referring to complex thefts they're trying to figure out as part of their jobs at the police department, for some inexplicable reason, JANE or ROBERT continually jump into the conversation with a reference to a piece of information about the theft HARRY and DORIS are surprised to find they have. JANE and ROBERT always shrug it off, with a look that shows they're concealing something, and a lame response, such as, "How did I know about the.... Oh, but Harry, didn't you mention the orange vase that was smashed into seven pieces on the floor behind the sofa at the crime scene during a TV commercial yesterday evening? I'm sure you did. That's where I must have heard of it." HARRY then makes a dumb expression as if trying to recall, as the camera zooms in and the audience laughs. It appears Harry cannot recall, yet he simply shrugs his shoulders. JANE slyly smiles and winks at ROBERT, who slyly smiles back.

Nevertheless, throughout there is no suggestion that the couples are not in love, or are unfaithful. The audience is clearly reassured of this, even though there is understood to be, at the same time, some form of deviousness (or perhaps several forms) in the relationship between JANE and ROBERT.

The love of the couples is made apparent, in part, by the lavish gifts JANE and ROBERT shower upon their spouses, HARRY and DORIS. HARRY and DORIS voice to their spouses, for what is apparently the umpteenth time, how curious they are to know how JANE and ROBERT can afford to buy them yachts and diamond bracelets and expensive sports cars, etc. JANE and ROBERT always change the subject in an obvious way (another recurring joke that causes the audience to laugh every time). And yet, HARRY and DORIS couldn't be more delighted to have all of the wonderful things. This invariably leads to the spouses kissing in thanks, which always ends each sitcom episode.

**THE END**